

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) A multiple player board game apparatus, comprising:

a game board, having:

a central playing area of three hundred twenty-four playing positions of eighteen ranks and eighteen files in a substantially square array having four sides and four corners;

said playing positions comprising alternating light colored positions and dark colored positions in a checkerboard pattern;

two initial playing extensions, each of the extensions having twenty-four playing positions of three ranks and eight files disposed upon each of the sides of said central playing area, each of the extensions being immediately adjacent a corresponding one of the corners of said central playing area and spaced apart from one another along each of the sides; [[and]]

each of the initial playing extensions further including uniform coloring of the light colored positions therein, the light colored positions being colored differently from one another in each of the different initial playing extensions;

eight sets of playing pieces, each of the sets of playing pieces corresponding to one of the initial playing extensions, respectively;

wherein each of said sets of playing pieces is colored substantially identically to said light colored positions of said corresponding one of said initial playing extensions.

Claim 2. *(Canceled)*

Claim 3. *(Canceled)*

Claim 4. *(Original)* The multiple player board game apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said sets of playing pieces comprise eight sets of chess pieces, with each of said sets being colored differently from one another.

Claim 5. *(Original)* The multiple player board game apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said sets of playing pieces comprise eight sets of checkers, with each of said sets being colored differently from one another.

Claims 6-8. *(Cancelled)*

Claim 9. *(Currently Amended)* A method of playing a multiple player board game, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a game board having a central playing area of three hundred twenty-four playing positions of eighteen ranks and eighteen files in a substantially square array having four sides and four corners;

(b) further providing two initial playing extensions each comprising twenty-four playing positions of three ranks and eight files disposed upon each of the sides of the central playing area, each immediately adjacent a corresponding one of the corners of the central playing area and spaced apart from one another along each of the sides;

(c) further providing eight sets of chess pieces, with each of the sets corresponding to one of the initial playing extensions;

(d) selecting from two to eight players;

(e) assigning one of the sets of chess pieces to each of the players;

(f) determining the order of play by the players;

(g) placing the chess pieces in their starting array upon their corresponding initial playing extensions;

(h) selectively moving the pawns of the sets of chess pieces up to three positions forward on an initial move;

(i) selectively moving the pawns of the sets of chess pieces up to two positions forward on a subsequent move;

(j) selectively moving the pawns of the sets of chess pieces one position laterally on moves subsequent to the initial move;

~~(h)~~ (k) sequentially and selectively moving the chess pieces in accordance with the previously established order of play; and

~~(+)~~ (l) winning the game by having the last king remaining free of check.

Claim 10. *(Original)* The method of playing a multiple player board game according to claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

(a) coloring the playing positions in alternating light and dark colors, in a checkerboard pattern;

(b) uniformly coloring the light colored positions of each one of the initial playing extensions; and

(c) differently coloring the light colored positions of the different initial playing extensions.

Claim 11. *(Original)* The method of playing a multiple player board game according to claim 10, further comprising the step of coloring the chess pieces of each of the sets substantially identically to the light colored positions of a corresponding one of the initial playing extensions.

Claim 12. *(Cancelled)*

Claim 13. *(Cancelled)*

Claim 14. *(Original)* The method of playing a multiple player board game according to claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) selectively advancing at least one pawn across the center of the game board;
- (b) continuing to selectively advance the at least one pawn across one of the initial playing extensions across the center of the game board from the starting position of the at least one pawn; and
- (c) promoting the at least one pawn to a chess piece of higher rank.

Claim 15. *(Currently Amended)* A method of playing a multiple player board game, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a game board having a central playing area of three hundred twenty-four playing positions of eighteen ranks and eighteen files in a substantially square array having four sides and four corners;

(b) further providing two initial playing extensions each comprising twenty-four playing positions of three ranks and eight files disposed upon each of the sides of the central playing area, each immediately adjacent a corresponding one of the corners of the central playing area and spaced apart from one another along each of the sides;

(c) further providing eight checker playing sets, with each of the sets corresponding to one of the initial playing extensions;

(d) selecting from two to eight players;

(e) assigning one of the checker sets to each of the players;

(f) determining the order of play by the players;

(g) placing the checker sets in their starting array upon their corresponding initial playing extensions;

(h) sequentially and selectively moving the checkers of the sets in accordance with the previously established order of play; [[and]]

(i) selectively moving the checkers of the sets up to two positions forward on a move; and

(+ (j) winning the game by having the last remaining checkers on the game board.

Claim 16. *(Original)* The method of playing a multiple player board game according to claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) coloring the playing positions in alternating light and dark colors in a checkerboard pattern;
- (b) uniformly coloring the light colored positions of each one of the initial playing extensions; and
- (c) differently coloring the light colored positions of the different initial playing extensions.

Claim 17. *(Original)* The method of playing a multiple player board game according to claim 16, further comprising the step of coloring the checkers of each of the sets substantially identically to the light colored positions of a corresponding one of the initial playing extensions.

Claim 18. *(Cancelled)*

Claim 19. *(Original)* The method of playing a multiple player board game according to claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) selectively advancing at least one checker across the center of the game board;
- (b) continuing to selectively advance the at least one checker across one of the initial playing extensions across the center of the game board from the starting position of the at least one checker; and
- (c) promoting the at least one checker to permit reversal of movement.